

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANTIA 04697 051458Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 051415Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3845

S E C R E T SANTIAGO 4697

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, SHUM, PFOR

SUBJ: ALLEGED WASHINGTON APPROVAL FOR CANCELLATION OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION STUDY GROUP VISIT

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM POPPER

1. AN UNEXPECTED FILLIP WAS ADDED TO MY JULY 4 RECEPTION WHEN MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC COORDINATION RAUL SAEZ, WHO HAS LONG BEEN PRESSING FOR LIBERALIZATION OF GOC HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES, TOLD ME THAT GOVT WAS ABOUT TO BAR UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION STUDY GROUP FROM CHILE -- EVEN THOUGH GOC HAD BEEN COMMITTED TO RECEIVE IT IN SANTIAGO JULY 10.

2. A NUMBER OF FONOFF PERSONNEL PRESENT SOON CONFIRMED THAT VISIT OF STUDY GROUP HAD BEEN AT LEAST "SUSPENDED". APPARENTLY GOC FEARED THAT BECAUSE OF GROUP'S INTERVIEWS BEFORE REACHING CHILE, IT WOULD REACH ITS CONCLUSIONS NOT ON BASIS OF GOC'S PRESENT PRACTICES, BUT BECAUSE OF THINGS THAT HAD HAPPENED IN THE PAST. IT APPEARS THAT FONOFF TOP PERSONNEL HAD THROUGHOUT THE DAY RESISTED THIS CHANGE IN POSITION VERY VIGOROUSLY, BUT THAT DECISION WAS MADE BY PRESIDENT PINOCHET, WHO LEFT AT MID-DAY FOR BARNSTORMING TOUR IN NORTH.

3. I TOOK LIBERTY OF MENTIONING TO FONMIN AT RECEPTION THAT I PERSONALLY REGRETTED THE NEW DEVELOPMENT, WHICH WOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD OR FAVORABLY RECEIVED ABROAD. (BBC AT 11 PM LOCAL DESCRIBED IT AS A "BAN".) FROM TWO SOURCES, EMBOFFS WERE TOLD

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THAT MATTER HAD BEEN DISCUSSED -- AND BY IMPLICATION APPROVED --

AT A HIGH LEVEL IN WASHINGTON.

4. IF DEPT IS AWARE OF ANY CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON WHICH MIGHT HAVE A BEARING ON THE MATTER, WOULD APPRECIATE DETAILS.

5. I WILL BE SEEING SAEZ ON MONDAY JULY 7 FOR A FULLER ACCOUNT OF WHAT HAPPENED AT THIS END.

POPPER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, RESEARCH, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANTIA04697
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750233-0178
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750782/aaaacv/w.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGED WASHINGTON APPROVAL FOR CANCELLATION OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION STUDY GROUP VISIT
TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, CI, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006